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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

Edward D. DiPrete
Governor

John S. Renza
Director

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RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - MAY 1990

Rhode Island's wage and salary job total advanced in the April-May period as additional gains in the Service Producing sector along with a small increase in Contract Construction overshadowed a decline in the Manufacturing sector. Although the May job total of 459,000 reflects an increase of 1,400, it is 5,200 below the May 1989 figure of 464,200.

Total employment in the Service Producing sector, at 335,100, rose 1,500 from April's level and was up 1,100 compared to a year ago. The most substantial monthly job gain (+ 600) was recorded in Trade, followed by an increase of 400 in Services. Job levels in Transportation/Public Utilities and Government (primarily Census workers) expanded by 300 and 200, respectively, over the month. Employment in Finance/Insurance/Real Estate was unchanged from April's level.

Employment among the state's Goods Producing industries totalled 123,900 in May, down 100 from last month and 6,300 from a year ago. Within this sector, Contract Construction jobs continued to increase seasonally, climbing to 19,000 in May, up 200 from the month earlier figure. Total factory jbos, at 104,900, declined by 300 from April and dropped 4,300 compared to the May 1989 figure. Manufacturers of Nondurable Goods recorded a monthly downturn of 300 while employment in Durable Goods showed no overall change. Monthly job gains were registered in Jewelry/Silverware (+ 200), Stone-Clay-Glass, the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment and Printing-Publishing (+ 100 each). These gains were more than offset, however, by monthly reductions of 200 each in Nonelectrical Machinery and Textiles, along with decreases of 100 each in Lumber/Furniture, Fabricated Metals, Apparel and Plastics Products. Job totals for the remaining nine industries - four in Durable Goods and five in Nondurable Goods - were unchanged from their April levels.

The May work week averaged 39.5 hours, up 0.3 of an hour from last month, but down 0.1 of an hour from a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.39 in May, representing a gain of 2 cents from April and 39 cents compared to May 1989.

The state's unadjusted unemployment rate decreased from April to May, dropping by 0.2 of a percent to the May level of 6.9 percent. The jobless level for the month fell to 36,000, down 1,400 from April's level of 37,400. Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly in May to 6.8 percent, up 0.1 of a percentage point from April's estimate of 6.7 percent.

Nationally, both the seasonally adjusted and unadjusted rates declined by one-tenth of a percent in May - to 5.3 and 5.1 percent, respectively.

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INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR NOTICE

This Department is aware that certain employers have attempted to avoid Employment Security taxes by designating employees as "independent contractors". In most of the cases reviewed by the Department, the relationship between employer and employee failed to meet the test of "independent contractor" status.

All employers who have already made such a change and any who are contemplating it should check with the Tax section of this Department at (401) 277-3688.

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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR. For additional information contact LABOR MARKET INFORMATION at 277-3706. TDD Voice: 277-3718.

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	May 1990	April* 1990	May* 1989
Civilian Labor Force	521.2	524.9	522.4
Resident Employment	485.3	487.5	502.1
Unemployment	36.0	37.4	20.3
Rate (Unadjusted)	6.9	7.1	3.9
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	6.8	6.7	3.9

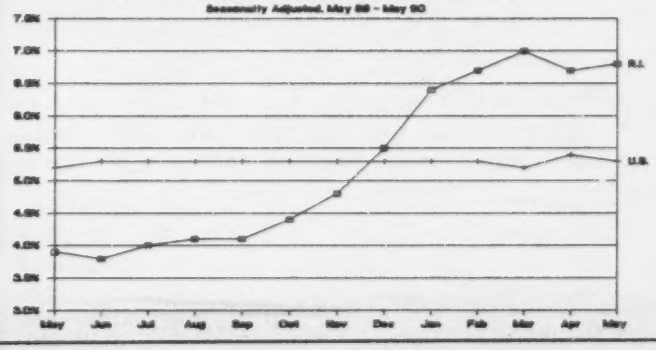
*Revised

UNITED STATES

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	May 1990	April 1990	May 1989
Civilian Labor Force	124,640	123,816	123,196
Resident Employment	118,277	117,359	117,039
Unemployment	6,363	6,457	6,156
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.1	5.2	5.0
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5.3	5.4	5.2

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			NET CHANGE FROM	
	May 1990	Apr. 1990	May 1989	Apr 1990	May 1989
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	459.0	457.6	464.2	+ 1400	- 5200
GOODS PRODUCING	123.9	124.0	130.2	- 100	- 6300
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	19.0	18.8	21.0	+ 200	- 2000
MANUFACTURING	104.9	105.2	109.2	- 300	- 4300
SERVICE PRODUCING	335.1	333.6	334.0	+ 1500	+ 1100
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.6	15.3	15.8	+ 300	- 200
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	106.7	106.1	106.8	+ 600	- 100
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	26.8	26.8	26.7	0	+ 100
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	126.3	125.9	125.1	+ 400	+ 1200
GOVERNMENT	59.7	59.5	59.6	+ 200	+ 100

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

May 1990

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	104.9	370.91	39.5	9.39
DURABLE MFG.	71.7	368.00	39.4	9.34
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.0	444.96	39.1	11.38
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.5	499.32	41.3	12.09
PRIMARY METALS	4.1	422.10	41.1	10.27
FABRICATED METALS	8.9	344.27	39.3	8.76
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.5 *	455.87	40.2	11.34
ELECTRICAL MACH.	6.4	347.53	38.7	8.98
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	8.2	497.21	41.4	12.01
INSTRUMENTS	7.1	401.14	41.1	9.76
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	21.0	296.01	39.0	7.59
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.0	293.10	35.7	8.21
NONDURABLE MFG.	33.2	377.55	39.7	9.51
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2.6	364.00	40.4	9.01
TEXTILES	9.0	336.44	40.1	8.39
APPAREL	1.5	309.67	39.6	7.82
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.1	373.84	41.4	9.03
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.7	450.67	37.4	12.05
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	2.8	466.75	40.8	11.44
RUBBER PRODUCTS	0.8	382.01	40.9	9.34
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5.8	411.17	38.9	10.57
LEATHER PRODUCTS	1.9	288.11	41.1	7.01

*Labor Dispute

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.